

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

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USLO PEKING

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SUBJ: PRC, CLOSER ATTENTION TO INDUSTRY AND PRODUCTIVITY

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POUCH: MOSCOW, ROME (2) , COMUSTDC, FBIS OKINAWA, CINCPAC,
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TOKYO, VIENTIANE, CANBERRA

SUMMARY: THE APRIL 10 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL (REPORTED
IN REFTTEL), CALLING FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION WITHOUT SUB-
VERTING THE AIMS OF THE MOVEMENT, HAS BEEN PICKED UP IN
SOME OF THE PROVINCES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS SIGNIFICANT
BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES THAT OFFICIALS ARE COGNIZANT
OF THE POTENTIAL CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRODUCTION ON
ONE HAND AND GREATER WORKER PARTICIPATION IN "MAKING
REVOLUTION" ON THE OTHER. END SUMMARY.

1. SOME PROVINCES ARE ECHOING THE APRIL 10 PEOPLE'S DAILY
EDITORIAL THROUGH CONFERENCES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL AND COM-
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MUNICATIONS SECTORS. (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECENT

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE IN INNER MONGOLIA, RS APRIL 26.) AS IN THAT EDITORIAL, THE AREAS SINGLED OUT -- THEY "MUST VIE TO BE THE VANGUARDS IN GRASPING REVOLUTION AND PROMOTING PRODUCTION"--- ARE COAL, METALLURGICAL, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THESE HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZED BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT BOTTLENECKS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OVERCOME DURING THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, OF WHICH 1974 IS THE FOURTH--- AND OFTEN CALLED "CRUCIAL"- YEAR. SOME CORROBORATION COMES IN A SHENYANG NEWS ITEM WHICH ADMITS THAT TRANSPORTATION USED TO LAG BEHIND PRODUCTION AT THE KUNGHCHINAGLING IRON MINE WHICH IS AMAJOR SUPPLIER FOR THE ANSHAN STEEL COMPLEX (NCNA MAY 1).

2. THE EDITORIALS'S CONCERN THAT PRODUCTION NOT BE UNDLULY AFFECTED ALSO SHOWS UP IN OTHER PROVINCIAL BROADCASTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AN APRIL 18 RALLY CALLED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN SHENSI, HEARD THE USUAL ATTACK ON THE "ERRONEOUS TENDENCY" OF SETTING REVOLUTION AGAINST PRODUCTION (RS APRIL 22). FORMERLY, THIS PHRASE WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ATTACK THOSE WHO EMPHASIZED "PRODUCTION AT THE EXPENSE OF REVOLUTION". BUT IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN ONE SPEECH THAT " REVOLUTION WITHOUT PRODUCTION" WAS ALSO WRONG. THE RESPONSIBLE COMRADE REITERATED THE CALL FOR THE CADRES AND MASSES TO MAKE REVOLUTION IN THEIR SPARE TIME AND TO STAND FIRM AT THEIR PRODUCTION AND WORK POSTS.

3. ANOTHER OF THE EDITORIAL'S THEMES-- THE ROLE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN RAISING WORKER ENTHUSIASM-- IS HEAVILY EMPHASIZED IN NCNA'S NEWS ITEMS ABOUT PRODUCTION INCREASES. ALSO HIGHLIGHTED ARE WORKERS' TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS. THEY REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THE GROWTH RATE OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT WHICH APPARENTLY STAGNATED LAST YEAR. INNOVATION TAKES ON INCREASED IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF THE SLOW GROWTH IN URBAN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND THE PRIORITY ACCORDED AGRICULTURE IN THE ALLOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE MOVEMENT'S ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE LABOR PRODUCTIVITY WILL HAVE REAL ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VALUE-- IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL. RAISING ENTHUSIASM AND GETTING A FULL DAY'S WORK, RATHER THAN LETTING WORKERS OFF AFTER A GIVEN QUOTA HAS BEEN PRODUCED, ARE LAUDABLE AND RATIONAL OBJECTIVES. BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY CLASH WITH A PREFERENCE FOR LEISURE AT THE PRESENT WAGE SCALES AND THE CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GOODS. CROSS

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